

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/961,233

Examiner

Joshua L Pritchett

Applicant(s)

NOMURA ET AL.

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2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed October 19, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Amendment filed October 19, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been amended as requested by the applicant.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Amendment, filed October 19, 2004, with respect to claim 1 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 1 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, Iizuka discloses a lens barrel comprising a lens frame (7 and 2) for supporting a photographing lens group (L1 and L2), the lens frame including a guide bore (7c and 3c) extends in a direction parallel to the optical axis of the photographing lens group (Fig. 1); a support barrel (area inside 3, 4, 5 and 17) wherein the lens frame can be inserted into and removed from a front opening of the support barrel (Fig. 1); a rod receiving portion (8) formed inside the support barrel at the rear of the front opening in the optical axis direction (Fig. 1); a bracket (front plate) attached to the front end of the support barrel to prevent the lens frame from

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falling out of the front of the support barrel (Fig. 1); and a guide rod (3) provided on the bracket for guiding the lens frame to move relative to the support barrel in the optical axis direction, the guide rod being placed through the guide bores and the end of the guide rod engaging with the rod receiving portion when the bracket is attached to the support barrel (Fig. 1; col. 2 lines 41-44); wherein the lens group frame can be taken out of the support barrel through the front opening when the bracket having the guide rod is removed from the support barrel (Fig. 1). Iizuka lacks reference to the use of a U-shaped recess inside the support barrel extending in the optical axis direction and the guide rod configured to be supported by the guide rib and to be received by the U-shaped recess.

The remaining claims depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

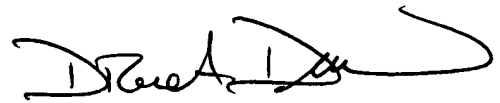
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua L Pritchett whose telephone number is 571-272-2318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 - 3:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JLP H



DREW A. DUNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER